Death of chickens in Assam

429. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over one thousand chickens died in a week in two villages in Assam in February, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any test has been carried out in the State in this connection;

(d) if so, whether results have confirmed or denied existence of bird flu there; and

(e) the steps taken to eradicate bird flu in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. About 300 chicken died sporadically in two villages of Assam during February 2006. Death of 175 and 125 chicken was reported from Laika and Pamuwa villages of Tinsukia district respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir Postmortem examination and laboratory investigation was conducted by Regional disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Guwahati. The chicken were found to have died due to Ranikhet disease. Samples/Morbid material were also sent to High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal to rule out existence of bird flu and the tests are negative for bird flu.

(e) In order to eardicate bird flu, necessary control and containment operations were initiated in the affected areas as per the Action Plan prepared by the Government of India and circulated to the State Governments. It involved culling, clean up and disinfection. Culling was carried out within 10 km. radius of the infected areas in all the farms and villages. Post operation surveillance as per plan is being undertaken in outbreak areas as well as the surveillance zone over a period of 3 months from completion of operation and issue of sanitization certificate. Since 18th April, 2006 there has been no report of any further outbreak in the country.